Mineral exploration in sea-bed areas

1401. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are not showing adequate interest for mineral exploration in the sea-bed areas;

(b) the details of mineral exploration in the sea-bed areas, State-wise; and

(c) the amount spent for exploration and for identification of mineral wealth in the offshore areas during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a): No, Sir. Marine Wing of Geological Survey of India (GSI) is engaged in sea-bed mapping since 1983. The sea bed survey is being regularly undertaken with the help of ocean going research vessel and two coastal research vessels.

(b) The details of mineral exploration in the sea-bed areas, State-wise are as under:

	Sea Bed Areas	Mineral Investigated
1.	Off Orissa Coast	Placers/Heavy mineral sands like Rutile, Zircon, Sillimanite
2.	Off Andhra Coast	Placers, Heavy Mineral Sands, Lime-mud.
3.	Off Kerala Coast	Heavy mineral sands like llmenite,Rutile, zircon. Geochemical scan for hydrocarbons.
4.	Off Maharashtra Coast	Calcareous sand, Lime-mud, Phosphatised sediments. Geochemical scan for Hydrocarbons.
5.	Off Tamil Nadu Coast	Phosphastised sediments. Geochemical scan for Hydrocarbons.
6.	Off Lakshadweep Coast	Calcareous sand.

(c) Total amount spent for offshore investigations including mineral exploration is around Rs. 122.64 crores during the last five years (2001-2006).